been identified for intensive conservation and management. Management Action Plans for all the identified Mangrove and Coral Reef areas were prepared and an amount of Rs. 1317.28 lakhs was released to the State Governments/Union Territories concerned for implementation of these Management Action Plans during the Ninth Five Year Plan. As per the State of Forest Report, 1999 an overall increase of 615 sq. km. of mangrove areas in the country has been reported during the period 1991—1999. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has also launched an All India Co-ordinated Project on Coastal and Marine Biodiversity during the year 1999-2000. Main activities under this project include Survey and Inventorisation, Training and Capacity Building in Taxonomy and Establishment of Database Network on the subject. The Coastal Shelterbelt Plantation Project under Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Scheme envisages plantation in rows along the coastline to create a shelterbelt for checking soil erosion and sand ingress for protection of agricultural fields, homesteads and roads etc. To conserve and protect the fragile coastal ecosystems, Ministry of Environment and Forests issued Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991 under the Environmental Protection Act, 1986. Coastal Zone Management Authorities have been constituted in all the coastal States/Union Territories to ensure implementation of the provisions of the CRZ Notification, 1991. Coral Reefs have been included in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Sunderbans in West Bengal, Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu and Great Nicobar have been designated as Biosphere Reserves. Department of Ocean Development has also launched a programme on Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management during the Ninth Plan period.

FPIs in rural areas

†1097. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating any scheme to set up more and more units of food processing industries based on agriculture in the rural areas, for proper development of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries do not set up any food processing units on their own. However, financial assistance under the Plan schemes is extended to Non-Governmental Organisations, Co-operatives, Private Industries and Public Sector Undertakings, for setting up food processing units including those based on agriculture and in rural areas.

Value addition to fruits and vegetables

1098. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while India is the largest producer of fruits and vegetables with 132 million tonnes,its processing level is hardly 2 to 3 per cent, as compared to 83 per cent in Malaysia, 72 per cent in Thailand, 70 per cent in UK and 50 per cent in Brazil; and

(b) if so, whether Government are thinking of utilizing the immense scope for value addition, so that our farmers get adequate price for their produce and country's exports also get the boost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The processing level of fruits and vegetables in the country is estimated to be around 2% of production.

(b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries seeks to enhance value addition for farm produce and thereby higher value realisation to farmers through assistance under its Plan Schemes to Private Sector Industries, Non-Governmental Organizations, Co-operatives, Public Sector Undertakings, Human Resource Development Institutions, Research and Development Institutions etc. Besides, a number of policy initiatives have been taken to promote this sector.

Employment opportunities in FPIs

†1099. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.